UNDP

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A REGIONAL PROJECT OF ALGERIA, MOROCCO AND TUNISIA

IPF:(1987-91) $ 52 849 000

(RAB/91/007) - Surveillance of Disease and Germplasm Enhancement for Cereals and Food Legumes

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	22 May 1991
Expected duration:	Five years
Proposed executing agency:	Government of Morocco
Government implementing agency:	Ministries of Agriculture
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 1 298 000 Source of funds:IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$ 1 298 000

Project background

The economies of Morocco, Tunisia and to a lesser extent Algeria, are based mainly on agricultural production. Cereals (wheat and barley) and food legumes are the major crops cultivated in these countries. The decline or sluggish rate of increase in production and yield levels in food legumes over the last twenty years has been alarming. In cereals, the overall production varies significantly depending on prevailing climatic conditions, but all three countries are net importers. Wheat imports represent over 50 per cent of local requirements; and the value of cereal imports have ranged between $93 and 300 million in 1988. High rates of population growth combined with increasing living standards further contribute to the growth of the demand for cereals which are considered as strategic commodities in these countries.

Losses caused by disease are among the major factors that contribute to yield reduction. It is estimated that these can often reach 50 per cent. It is also admitted that the potential to improve self-sufficiency in food production can be improved if yields can be increased by 20 to 30 per cent through reduction of losses due to diseases and adequate cultural practices.

There is a nucleus of well trained scientists in each of the three countries which have a relatively long history of cereal breeding research with the major focus on developing superior varieties for the high rainfall regions dominated by large farmers. Far less attention has been paid to research on disease problems which frequently limit production. To address

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[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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this issue UNDP assistance was requested under the present approval.

Description of project

The main goal of the project is to stabilize the overall production of winter cereals and legumes by reducing losses caused by major diseases and by assisting in the development of disease-resistant varieties. This will be accomplished through upgrading the capabilities of the national agricultural research systems in the participating countries through: (i) training within the region and in advanced American and European Institutes; and (ii) research networking arrangements amongst themselves.

The project is considered to be a form of TCDC mechanism whereby self-reliance is placed on national researchers supported by ICARDA (co-operating agency).

Inputs

UNDP will provide for senior consultants (five man-months); administrative support; training through in-service regional courses, off-campus advanced training, fellowships and travelling workshops, regional and international seminars, and laboratory equipment.

The Governments will provide for the appointment of a full-time regional co-ordinator, three national co-ordinators, scientists, laboratories, greenhouses and office space, transportation and office equipment, supplies and communication facilities.

Financial data

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Personnel	363 000
Training	440 000
Equipment	390 000
Miscellaneous	105 000
Total	1 298 000

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